ture and music" (xiii). A dubious assertion indeed, given the prevalence of the demonic throughout the late 1960s. One need only think of the recording of the Rolling Stones' "Sympathy for the Devil" (1968), the release of film versions of David Wheatley's *The Devil Rides Out* and of *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), or the publication of Anton LaVey's *Satanic Bible* (1969) to question the singular importance he grants to *The Exorcist* in reviving interest in the devil. In fact, modern cultural and esoteric interest in the demonic, neglected in Almond's book, can be traced back to the nineteenth century.

In the end, these minor quibbles do not detract much from a work that is enlightening and enjoyable, bringing to life one of the most sinister figures in Western culture. It will be of great interest to a broad readership, both within and beyond academia.

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Debby Banham and Rosamond Faith, *Anglo-Saxon Farms and Farming*. (Medieval History and Archaeology.) Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2014. Pp. xv, 336; 60 black-and-white figures, 9 color plates, and 4 tables. $110. ISBN: 978-0-19-920794-7. doi:10.1086/686497

This is a splendid book that presents a massive store of evidence and hypotheses related to early medieval farming and country life in England. The two authors are historians but they have also made extensive use of relevant research in several other disciplines, such as archaeology, anthropology, landscape studies, and linguistics. In addition, Debby Banham has several years' practical experience of working on the land. As they say, their aim is to "bring to bear every available source of information, and let different kinds of evidence illuminate each other" (14–15).

The book is the result of extensive reading and research presented in eminently readable plain English that is a pleasure to study or browse. The authors have followed a helpful plan by dividing their book into two parts: the first part discusses current knowledge of the crops, livestock, tools, and techniques of Anglo-Saxon farming, and the second part applies this information to a varied selection of English landscapes, such as coasts, woodland, downland, moorland, and wolds, including numerous case studies along the way. Where necessary, the authors admit the limitations of current knowledge with honesty and realism.

For readers who are interested (or even expert) in Anglo-Saxon England but know little about the practicalities of farming, this book is an essential companion because the vast majority of the medieval population was engaged in occupations directly or indirectly connected with this activity. It follows that it is not possible to fully understand Anglo-Saxon society and economy without knowing how ordinary people worked the land. A lot of information has long been available but it is scattered among hundreds of excavation reports, fieldwork surveys, and documentary and semantic studies. Banham and Faith have now perused and evaluated these sources while adding many valuable insights from their own research.

It is difficult to be expert in several disciplines, and there are a few linguistic problems in this book. Firstly, there is occasional evidence that the most recent or most appropriate research has not been found. For example, it is stated that there are no certain pre-Conquest place-names that include the element *āte* "oat" (32). This is correct if *place-name* is strictly defined, but it overlooks a Worcestershire boundary point ("the bishop's oat-land") that is included by Parsons, Styles, and Hough in the first volume of the *Vocabulary of English Place-Names* (Nottingham, 1997, 22), a series that is gradually updating our knowledge of place-name elements, hitherto dependent on Smith's *English Place-Name Elements* (Cambridge, 1956).

Secondly, I confess myself confused at the statement (263), following mention of the place-name *Kesteven*, that a sheep that has overturned and is unable to get up is referred to as *kessen* and, in Lincolnshire, as *cast*. Is it being suggested that *kessen* and/or *cast* is cognate with the first element of *Kesteven*? The place-name is usually derived from the Brittonic term for a wood (**cēto*) as in, for example, Watts's *Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names* (Cambridge, 2004, 342). There are other problems with place-name interpretations and I would recommend more extensive use of the English Place-Name Society county volumes.

Thirdly, the authors rightly mention that some words appear to be unique to place-names (207–8), and this would have been a good place to add a reference to recent research by scholars such as Hough in, for example, her *Toponymicon and Lexicon in North-West Europe* (Cambridge, 2010). Similarly, the authors' discussion of the appearance of horses (82–83) would have benefited from a reference to the semantic research of Neville in her article "Hrothgar's Horses: Feral or Thoroughbred," *Anglo-Saxon England* 35 (2006), 131–57.

A couple of minor linguistic irritations are, firstly, that it is undoubtedly helpful in some cases to give readers the pronunciation of an Old English word, but to say that OE *worðig* is pronounced "worthy" (232) without clarifying whether the Modern English pronunciation or a rough phonemic representation of Old English is intended leads to confusion over the vowel sound involved. Secondly, the Anglo-Saxon letters *æ*, *ð*, and *þ* sometimes appear in Old English words but, at other times, are replaced by *ae* and *th*.

A book like this that is aimed at a wide audience (vii) certainly needs a glossary, but only a very brief one is supplied (301–2). The authors are careful to explain technical, dialectal, and archaic vocabulary as it occurs in the text, but, although this is appreciated, such terms should also be included in the glossary, where the reader can easily find them again to refresh his or her memory. A small selection of the words which I would like to have seen in the glossary are *bordar*, *bovate*, *carucate*, *chapman*, *geld*, *interfluve*, *looker*, *reave*, *leys*, *lazybed*, *toft*, *virgate*, and *yardland*.

The book is well illustrated, including eight color plates, but some of the figures could be clearer; for example, the map at fig. 7.3.c is captioned only "Excavated site." Figs. 7.3.a and b relate to Mucking but, judging from text on the map, c refers to Linford. A few of the figures are too small, for example, the two smaller maps on fig. 7.4, which require a magnifying glass to identify the features. Similarly, fig. 11.1, a map intended to show Scandinavian place-names, requires the eyes of a lynx.

This is, nonetheless, a very small collection of complaints for a book that is multidisciplinary, pioneering, and extensive in its coverage. For the reader (like me) who is not an agricultural expert this book helps to clarify several complicated subjects, such as the range, choice, and changes in cereal cultivation (20–33) and the details of ploughing and sowing (44–59). There is no doubt that the book is a wonderful mine of information and it will be the first port of call for a long time to come for those with queries about Anglo-Saxon farming.

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